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50X1-HUM

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INFORMATION ON HUNGARIAN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES

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TEXTILE FACTORIES IN GYOR

Five or six textile mills are located in Gyor on the Danube. The most important ones are the Gyor Linen Mills (Gyori Lenézvegő) and the Gyor Textile Works (Gyori Textilmuvek).

This year, all the Hungarian linen mills have been merged into the Gyor Linen Mills. The machinery of the small linen mills distributed throughout Hungary has been brought to Gyor and installed in this mill. In summer 1951, there were about 500 looms; however, the mill is being expanded to make room for additional looms. The mill operates in three shifts, although the available raw material sometimes supplies only 60 percent of the looms. The management applied to the Ministry of Light Industry for permission to work in two shifts; this request was rejected.

About 14 to 16 workers operate six looms each; about 200 workers operate two to four looms each. Although there are many special linen looms, the main product is green dyed cloth, made from cotton and linen fiber, manufactured only for military purposes. This material is used chiefly as lining and stiffener for uniforms. The average production of one loom during one shift amounts to 10 meters of uniform material [sic] or 30-35 meters of linen lining.

50X1-HUM

- 1 -

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On 13 February 1951, a serious accident took place in the Gyor Linen Mills. During the regular workday, a wall suddenly collapsed and buried several workers, instantly killing one. There were several other [similar] accidents during the installation and operation of the looms. The masons were not to blame because they had to do their work at full speed, without the proper safety precautions. Barkanyi (fnu), plant manager, and Pekete (fnu), personnel manager, both fanatic Communists who think only in terms of filling quotas, were responsible for these accidents.

The Gyor Textile Works, which is located next to the Gyor Linen Mills, like the Richard Factory [not further identified], produces woolen fabrics from scraps. This establishment produces primarily for the military forces and works under great pressure. The norms had been increased so much in 1951 that only very few workers could maintain their production records. Only a few workers earn more than 100 to 120 forints.

Besides the textile mills in Gyor, there are also a railroad-car factory and an efficient power plant.

THE SOPRON TEXTILE MILL [REDACTED]

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The Sopron Textile Mill is on Selmeci Street in Sopron. An old sign still hanging on the front of the building reads "Soproni Pénzüipar Rt" (Sopron Cotton Industry Corporation).

Products of the mill include drapery material and lining. Seventy percent of the goods produced are sent to the USSR as reparations. The mill, which employs 1,200 workers, is divided into four sections: hardening, threading, weaving, and cleaning.

The work is done in three shifts. The workers are very dissatisfied with their pay, and although they work in a textile mill, their clothes are in tatters.

50X1-HUM

THE MACHINE FACTORY IN SOPRON [REDACTED]

The Machine Factory in Sopron is a branch of the Matyas Rakosi Works in Csepel. The factory was formerly called the Istvan Huber Factory and the Istvan Pekete Machine Factory. The enterprise is not large; it employs about 100 workers and has only eight lathes and three milling machines.

50X1-HUM

The factory produces mining machinery. The necessary raw material, a high-quality steel, is supplied by the Matyas Rakosi Works in Csepel. The

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Machine Factory manufactures two coal-crushing machines per month and four coal graders about every 4 months. The finished machines are shipped to a distribution point in Budapest.

Up to December 1950, student apprentices employed in the factory received 25 forints per week. As of 1 January 1951, they were paid 25 forints every two weeks. As of 1 May 1951, they received an hourly wage of one forint for work performed after school. For each hour away from the factory or the school, one week's pay was deducted. The students received a working uniform once a year, and formerly received free meals in the plant. However, as of summer 1951, they had to pay 3 forints for lunch. Each student had to contribute 100 forints to the Peace Loan.

Although the students heard a great deal about the pioneering achievements of the Soviets in the technical field, they found that the Soviet methods currently in use were not satisfactory. In May 1950, for example, Imre Muszka, lathe operator and famous Stakhanovite, demonstrated in the Sopron Needle Factory the "revolutionary" Soviet discovery, "turning in the negative angle." It was learned later that Muszka had worked with "Widex" steel, a German product. This method proved unsuccessful when it was introduced in the Machine Factory, because the only steel available was Soviet "Podybit" steel which broke at the slightest vibration.

The student apprentices attended the 217th Trade Apprentice School of the Manpower Reserve Office.

THE LOVO CUTLERY FACTORY

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The Lovo Cutlery Factory was the largest factory of its kind in Hungary before World War II. During the war, part of the plant (including the main building) was destroyed. Today, the firm is an affiliated enterprise of the Sopron Needle Factory, and employs from 120 to 130 workers. The director of the Sopron Needle Factory is in charge of this cutlery factory.

50X1-HUM

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- 3 -

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